

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN  
SOUTHERN DIVISION**

|                            |   |                               |
|----------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| In re                      | ) | Case No. 13-53846             |
|                            | ) |                               |
| CITY OF DETROIT, MICHIGAN, | ) | In Proceeding Under Chapter 9 |
|                            | ) |                               |
| Debtor.                    | ) | Hon. Steven W. Rhodes         |
|                            | ) |                               |
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**CITY OF DETROIT’S OBJECTIONS AND RESPONSES TO AMBAC  
ASSURANCE CORPORATION’S SECOND SET OF REQUESTS FOR  
DOCUMENTS**

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Pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 26 and 34, as made applicable to this proceeding by the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure 7026, 7034, 9014, and 9016, the City of Detroit, Michigan (the “City”) hereby submits the following objections and responses to Ambac Assurance Corporation’s Second Set of Requests for Documents to Debtor (the “Document Requests”).

**GENERAL OBJECTIONS**

The City incorporates the following general objections into each of its specific responses to these Document Requests served by Ambac Assurance Corporation (the “Objector”). The assertion of the same, similar, or additional objections, or a partial response to any individual request, does not waive any of the City’s general objections.

1. The City objects to each and every one of these Document Requests, and the instructions and definitions therein, to the extent they seek to impose a burden or obligation beyond those required by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, the local rules of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, any other applicable procedural rules, or the Fourth Amended Order Establishing Procedures, Deadlines and Hearing Dates Relating to the Debtor's Plan of Adjustment (“Scheduling Order”), or the most recently filed version of that Order. Specifically, the City objects to any request which seeks to require the disclosure of expert materials prior to the time specified in the Scheduling Order for disclosure of experts. *See* Fourth Amended Scheduling Order, at ¶ 9 (June 10, 2014, is the deadline to file list of experts).

2. The City objects to each and every one of these Document Requests, and the instructions and definitions therein, to the extent that they seek production of documents or things that are subject to the attorney-client privilege, attorney work product doctrine, settlement or mediation privilege (*see* Dkt. 0322), the common interest doctrine and/or any other applicable privilege or immunity, or to a protective order and/or stipulation of confidentiality between the City and any third party. Further, inadvertent production of any privileged or otherwise

protected documents in response to these Document Requests shall not be deemed a waiver or impairment of the City's rights or any claim of privilege or immunity.

3. The City objects to each and every one of these Document Requests, and the instructions and definitions therein, as unduly burdensome and oppressive, and not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence to the extent they require the City to provide a privilege log containing, with respect to each document withheld on a claim of privilege, a statement describing the document and the nature of the privilege. The City will not provide such a privilege log with its productions of documents in response to these Document Requests.

4. The City objects to each and every one of these Document Requests, and the instructions and definitions therein, as unduly burdensome and oppressive, and not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence to the extent they require the City to provide a log containing, with respect to each document that has been destroyed, lost, mislaid, or is otherwise missing, a statement describing the document and information regarding the circumstances under which it was destroyed, lost, mislaid, or otherwise missing. The City will not provide such a log with its productions of documents in response to these Document Requests.

5. The City objects to each and every one of these Document Requests, and the instructions and definitions therein, to the extent they seek information that is confidential or proprietary business information, trade secrets, other proprietary information, intellectual property, and/or commercially sensitive information of a third party to whom the City owes a legal obligation of non-disclosure. Such information will only be provided pursuant to a court-entered protective order and with the consent of the operative third parties.

6. The City objects to each and every one of these Document Requests, and the instructions and definitions therein, to the extent they request information protected from discovery by any right to privacy or any other applicable privilege, including the right to privacy of third parties, or by the City's obligations under applicable law to protect such confidential information.

7. The City's production of documents will include materials that contain third party personally identifiable information (as that term is defined in the Protective Order (Dkt. 0688)). Pursuant to the terms and conditions set forth in the Protective Order, the City reserves the right to redact such personally identifiable information from any documents that may be produced in response to these Document Requests.

8. The City objects to each and every one of these Document Requests, and the instructions and definitions therein, to the extent they seek discovery of

electronic information that is not reasonably accessible, on the grounds of undue burden and cost. By stating that it will produce or make available information responsive to a particular Document Request, the City represents that it will produce responsive, non-privileged information subject to reasonable limitations on the scope of the search, review, and production of such information due to the cost and burden of production.

9. The City objects to each and every one of these Document Requests, and the instructions and definitions therein, as unduly burdensome and oppressive to the extent they purport to require the City to search facilities and inquire of its officers, employees, representatives, attorneys, advisors and/or agents other than those facilities and officers, employees, representatives, attorneys, advisors and/or agents reasonably expected to have responsive, non-privilege documents.

Accordingly, the City's responses to these Document Requests are based upon (1) a reasonable search, given the time permitted to respond to these Document Requests, of facilities and files reasonably expected to possess responsive, non-privilege documents and (2) inquiries of the City's officers, employees, representatives, attorneys, advisors and/or agents who could reasonably be expected to possess responsive, non-privilege documents. To that end, the City will not produce documents from the City's attorneys – namely, Jones Day, Pepper

Hamilton LLP and Miller, Canfield, Paddock, and Stone, P.L.C, unless it indicates otherwise in connection with a specific request.

10. The City objects to each and every one of these Document Requests, and the instructions and definitions therein, to the extent they seek disclosure of information not within the City's possession, custody, or control.

11. The City objects to each and every one of these Document Requests, and the instructions and definitions therein, to the extent they seek information that is neither relevant to the subject matter of this action nor reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence.

12. The City objects to each and every one of these Document Requests, and the instructions and definitions therein, to the extent that any term, phrase or word used therein is vague and ambiguous, subject to varying interpretation, requires subjective knowledge by any other party other than the City, or involves issues of law subject to resolution by the court. The City will respond to each and every Document Request to the extent possible, based on the most objectively reasonable interpretation of each such term, phrase or word in the Document Request. To that end, any terms not otherwise defined by these Document Requests, and the instructions and definitions therein, will be given the definitions reflected in the most recently filed version of the City's Chapter 9 Plan for the Adjustment of Debts of the City of Detroit (the "Plan") and the most recently filed

version of the City's Disclosure Statement With Respect to Chapter 9 Plan for the Adjustment of Debts of the City of Detroit (the "Disclosure Statement"). In addition, for the purposes of its responses to these Document Requests, the City will define the terms "Plan," "Disclosure Statement," and "Scheduling Order" to mean the most recently filed versions of those documents.

13. The City objects to each and every one of the Objector's definitions and requests to the extent they are or purport to be so comprehensive as to be impossible or unduly burdensome and expensive to comply with literally. Many definitions and requests are overly broad, vague, unduly burdensome, and do not describe the requested documents with reasonable particularity. The City also objects to each and every one of these Document Requests, and the instructions and definitions therein, as overbroad, unduly burdensome, not relevant and not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence to the extent that they call for production of "all" documents relating to an individual topic or subject area. Specifically, the City objects to the phrase "all" as it is used throughout these Document Requests to the extent that it requires the City to search for and review millions of pages of documents, many of which will have no relevance to this litigation, in order to identify each and every document that may possibly be responsive to a request.

14. The City objects to each and every one of these Document Requests to the extent that they either do not specify a responsive time period or specify a time period that is not relevant to the Objector's claims or defenses as overly broad, unduly burdensome, and not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence. Accordingly, unless otherwise indicated, the City's responses to these Document Requests are limited to the time period of January 1, 2013 through the date of the City's response to these Document Requests.

15. The City objects to the definition of "City," "you" and "your" insofar as they purport to include "the City of Detroit, Michigan, as well as any of its past or present divisions, departments, officials, trustees, agents, affiliates, employees, attorneys, advisors, professionals, representatives, and all other persons acting or purporting to act on their behalf" because such an expansive definition is overly broad, unduly burdensome, and potentially calls for the production of documents that are not within the possession, custody, or control of the City, or its advisors, Ernst & Young, Conway MacKenzie, and Miller Buckfire.

16. The City objects to each and every one of these Document Requests, and the instructions and definitions therein, to the extent that the information sought is unreasonably cumulative or duplicative, or is obtainable from some other source that is more convenient, less burdensome, or less expensive. Specifically, the City objects to each and every one of these Document Requests, and the



instructions and definitions therein, to the extent the information sought is equally available to the Objectors, including information and documents that are publicly available and/or already in the Objector's possession, as providing such information would be unduly burdensome.

17. The City objects to each and every one of these Document Requests, and the instructions and definitions therein, insofar as they constitute interrogatories that Plaintiffs have drafted in the form of document requests in an effort to avoid the 25-interrogatory limit under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 33, as made applicable to this proceeding by the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure 7026, 7033, 9014, and 9016. The City further objects to each and every one of these Document Requests, and the instructions and definitions therein, to the extent that any of the requests, definitions, or instructions purport to require the City to create documents in order to respond to any particular request.

18. The City's general and specific objections are made based on its understanding and interpretation of each Document Request. The City reserves the right to supplement its objections should the Objectors subsequently put forth an interpretation of any Document Request differing from the City's interpretation of the same language. The City reserves the right to object on any ground at any time to other discovery requests Objectors may propound involving or relating to the same subject matter of these Document Requests.

19. By responding to these Document Requests, the City is not implicitly or explicitly agreeing with or otherwise adopting the Objector's characterizations or definitions contained therein, or admitting or conceding that the information sought is likely to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence. Except for any facts explicitly admitted in the City's objections or responses, no admission of any nature whatsoever is to be implied by or inferred from any statement anywhere in this document.

20. The City reserves the right to supplement these objections and responses and to assert additional objections to these Document Requests and the production of documents as necessary.

21. Each of these General Objections is incorporated by reference into each of the objections set forth below and each response set forth below is made without waiving any of these General Objections.

### **REQUESTS FOR PRODUCTION**

1. All documents and communications that relate to the calculation of the estimated \$3,184,900,000 amount of the OPEB liability described on page 25 of the Amended Disclosure Statement, dated March 31, 2014 [ECF No. 3382] (the "OPEB Claims Amount"). Include in your production work papers, valuation run results, sample calculations, and tally sheets.

### **OBJECTIONS AND RESPONSE TO REQUEST No. 1:**

Subject to and without waiving the general objections noted above, the City responds that it will produce non-privileged documents in its possession, custody,

or control, to the extent they exist, that are reasonably responsive to this request, as the City understands it.

2. All documents and communications that relate to, or explain, the difference between the OPEB Claims Amount and the calculation of the estimated \$5.7 billion amount of the unfunded OPEB liability described on page 23 of the City's Proposal to Creditors, dated June 14, 2013. Include in your production work papers, valuation run results, sample calculations, and tally sheets.

**OBJECTIONS AND RESPONSE TO REQUEST No. 2:**

Subject to and without waiving the general objections noted above, the City responds that it will produce non-privileged documents in its possession, custody, or control, to the extent they exist, that are reasonably responsive to this request, as the City understands it.

3. All documents and communications that relate to the projected impact of cost and expense reductions contemplated by the City on its financial projections, including any projections attached to any Disclosure Statement with respect to the Plan.

**OBJECTIONS AND RESPONSE TO REQUEST No. 3:**

Subject to and without waiving the general objections noted above, the City responds that it will produce non-privileged documents in its possession, custody, or control, to the extent they exist, that are reasonably responsive to this request, as the City understands it.

4. All documents and communications that relate to research or analysis by or for the City addressing comparisons to comparable, or any other, cities regarding:

A. The size of post-Effective Date pension and other retiree benefits relative to gross revenue;

- B. The size of post-Effective Date debt relative to gross revenue;
- C. The size of post-Effective Date annual debt service relative to gross annual revenue;
- D. The size of post-Effective Date annual operating expenses relative to annual gross revenue; and
- E. Other similar comparisons with other cities that informed development of the Plan.

**OBJECTIONS AND RESPONSE TO REQUEST No. 4:**

Subject to and without waiving the general objections noted above, the City responds that it will produce non-privileged documents in its possession, custody, or control, to the extent they exist, that are reasonably responsive to this request, as the City understands it.

5. All documents and communications that relate to the City's Assumed Rates of Return, including work papers, valuation run results, sample calculations, and tally sheets.

**OBJECTIONS AND RESPONSE TO REQUEST No. 5:**

Subject to and without waiving the general objections noted above, the City responds that it will produce non-privileged documents in its possession, custody, or control, to the extent they exist, that are reasonably responsive to this request, as the City understands it.

6. All documents and communications that relate to the City's compliance with Actuarial Standards of Practice ("ASOP") 4 (Measuring Pension Obligations) and ASOP 41 (Actuarial Communications) in preparing and disclosing to any party the City's Assumed Rates of Return.

**OBJECTIONS AND RESPONSE TO REQUEST No. 6:**

Subject to and without waiving the general objections noted above, the City responds that it will produce non-privileged documents in its possession, custody, or control, to the extent they exist, that are reasonably responsive to this request, as the City understands it.

7. All documents and communications that relate to the City's financial projections, including projected revenues, expenses, costs, cash flows, and the like for the year 2023 and beyond.

**OBJECTIONS AND RESPONSE TO REQUEST No. 7:**

Subject to and without waiving the general objections noted above, the City responds that it will produce non-privileged documents in its possession, custody, or control, to the extent they exist, that are reasonably responsive to this request, as the City understands it.

8. Documents sufficient to identify all accounts into which *ad valorem* taxes collected by or for the City, including receipts from Wayne County, were deposited, and the daily balances of such accounts during the fiscal year 2014.

**OBJECTIONS AND RESPONSE TO REQUEST No. 8:**

Subject to and without waiving the general objections noted above, the City responds that it will produce non-privileged documents in its possession, custody, or control, to the extent they exist, that are reasonably responsive to this request, as the City understands it.

9. Documents sufficient to establish the daily collections of *ad valorem* taxes by or for the City, including receipts from Wayne County, for fiscal year 2014.

**OBJECTIONS AND RESPONSE TO REQUEST No. 9:**

Subject to and without waiving the general objections noted above, the City responds that it will produce non-privileged documents in its possession, custody, or control, to the extent they exist, that are reasonably responsive to this request, as the City understands it.

10. All documents that relate to the City's past or planned future efforts to generate revenue from property that is exempt from property taxes, including by withdrawing the tax exempt status or obtaining payments in lieu of taxes.

**OBJECTIONS AND RESPONSE TO REQUEST No. 10:**

Subject to and without waiving the general objections noted above, the City responds that it will produce non-privileged documents in its possession, custody, or control, to the extent they exist, that are reasonably responsive to this request, as the City understands it.

11. All documents and communications that relate to the City's past or planned future efforts to generate or maximize existing grants from state or federal government.

**OBJECTIONS AND RESPONSE TO REQUEST No. 11:**

Subject to and without waiving the general objections noted above, the City responds that it will produce non-privileged documents in its possession, custody, or control, to the extent they exist, that are reasonably responsive to this request, as the City understands it.

12. All documents and communications that relate to the City's past or planned future efforts to maximize the amount of state aid available to the City.

**OBJECTIONS AND RESPONSE TO REQUEST No. 12:**

Subject to and without waiving the general objections noted above, the City responds that it will produce non-privileged documents in its possession, custody, or control, to the extent they exist, that are reasonably responsive to this request, as the City understands it.

13. All documents and communications that relate to the City's past or planned future efforts to claw back or disgorge past tax rebates.

**OBJECTIONS AND RESPONSE TO REQUEST No. 13:**

Subject to and without waiving the general objections noted above, the City responds that it will produce non-privileged documents in its possession, custody, or control, to the extent they exist, that are reasonably responsive to this request, as the City understands it.

14. All responses to interrogatories propounded to and/or served on the City by any other party.

**OBJECTIONS AND RESPONSE TO REQUEST No. 14:**

Subject to and without waiving the general objections noted above, the City responds that it will produce non-privileged documents in its possession, custody, or control, to the extent they exist, that are reasonably responsive to this request, as the City understands it.

Dated: May 6, 2014 Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Bruce Bennett

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ATTORNEYS FOR THE CITY OF DETROIT



**Certificate of Service**

I, Bruce Bennett, hereby certify that the foregoing City of Detroit, Michigan's Objections and Responses to Ambac Assurance Corporation's Second Set of Requests for Documents to Debtor was filed and served via the Court's electronic case filing and noticing system on this 6th day of May, 2014.

Dated: May 6, 2014

/s/ Bruce Bennett

Bruce Bennett